

Remarks

In the final Office Action mailed November 14, 2006:

1. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maston (U.S. Patent No. 4,695,112).

I Maston (U.S. Patent No. 4,695,112)

A. Maston's "Identification Means" Do Not Identify the "Mechanism"

Claimed embodiments of the present invention recite some form of identification for identifying a mechanism, tab or key of a circuit board or circuit board assembly, so that the disabling of the circuit board or assembly can be proved.

The Examiner cited Maston as disclosing "identification means for identifying the mechanism". Applicant traverses.

The Examiner identified "edge card-type plug 16" of Maston as corresponding to Applicant's mechanism, and certain "conductor runs 18" as corresponding to Applicant's identification means. In particular, the Examiner refers to the conductor runs that are labeled (e.g., in FIG-1) "NO-4" and "NO-3". However, it seems evident that these labels are meant to identify the individual conductor runs, *not the edge card-type plug*.

For example, Maston suggests the use of 7 conventional etched copper conductor runs (column 2, lines 13-14) and, indeed, the label "NO-3" appears on the 3rd conductor run (counting from the right side of edge card-type plug 16) and "NO-4" appears on the 4th conductor run. Because it is unlikely that the edge card-type plug is meant to have multiple identities (e.g., NO-1 through NO-7), Applicant asserts that the labels identify only the individual conductor runs.

B. Maston's "Identification Means" Are Not "Real"

Claimed embodiments of the present invention comprise some form of identification for identifying a mechanism, tab or key of a circuit board or circuit board assembly, so that the disabling of the circuit board or assembly can be proved.

As described above, the identification means cited in Maston (i.e., conductor runs 18) do not identify Maston's mechanism (i.e., edge card-type plug 16), instead they merely identify particular conductor runs.

In addition, the labels on the conductor runs cited by the Examiner are not believed to be part of the Maston apparatus.

In particular, only two conductor runs (the 3rd and the 4th) are labeled in FIG-1 of Maston, and Applicant asserts that this is done only for the purpose of illustration, to help a reader specifically identify the 3rd and 4th conductor runs. These illustrative labels may have been provided in order to help the reader locate lock-hole 22, which is described as being situated “between conductor runs No. 3 and No. 4 of plug 16 ...” (column 2, lines 16-17).

Thus, it appears most likely that the labels “NO-3” and “NO-4” are not part of the physical circuit board or edge card-type plug, and Applicant asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that the labels are not meant to be physically stamped, imprinted or otherwise produced on the circuit board.

II Selected Claims

A. **Claims 1-3 and 5-7**

As discussed above in section I, Claim 1 recites identification means, for identifying the mechanism, that Maston fails to teach or suggest.

B. **Claims 34-42**

Claims 34-42 correspond to an embodiment of the invention depicted in FIG. 1, but were not examined in the final office action mailed November 14, 2006. Applicant requests these claims be examined. Claim 34 was amended to harmonize the choice of words (i.e., “signal conductor” vice “signal trace”).

C. **Claim 43**

Claim 43 was added, and corresponds to an embodiment of the invention depicted in FIG.

1.

D. **Claim 44**

Claim 44 was added, and corresponds to an embodiment of the invention depicted in FIG.

1.

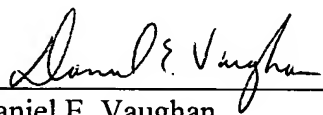
CONCLUSION

No new matter has been added with the preceding amendments. It is submitted that the application is in suitable condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. If prosecution of this application may be facilitated through a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


Daniel E. Vaughan 42,199
(Registration No.)

Park, Vaughan & Fleming LLP
P.O. Box 7865
Fremont, CA 94537
(510) 790-9960: voice
(510) 790-9964: facsimile